

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PPD AND CDS LEADERS PRESENT CONTRASTING VIEWS

REF: LISBON 0431 (DTG 211116Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY AT DINNER FOR SENATOR PELL FEB 9, PPD LEADER SA CARNEIRO REITERATED HIS ASSERTION THAT SOCIALISTS HAVE MADE DEAL TO SUPPORT COSTA GOMES FOR PRESIDENCY IN EXCHANGE FOR FAVORABLE TREATMENT FOR SOCIALISTS IN POST-LEGISLATIVE-ELECTION MANEUVERING. CDS LEADERS, AT FEB 10 BREAKFAST MEETING, PRESENTED GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC PICTURE, WHILE SNIPING AWAY AT PPD. WE ANTICIPATE MORE SUCH RECRIMINATIONS AS CAMPAIGN DEVELOPS. END SUMMARY.

1. PPD VIEWS: AT DINNER FOR SENATOR PELL FEB 9, POPULAR DEMOCRATIC LEADER SA CARNEIRO WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF SOCIALISTS.

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-- PS-COSTA GOMES DEAL: SA CARNEIRO ASSERTED THAT PS HAD

AGREED TO SUPPORT COSTA GOMES FOR PRESIDENCY IN RETURN FOR PRESIDENT'S FAVORABLE TREATMENT OF SOCIALISTS IN POST-LEGISLATIVE-ELECTION MANEUVERING. SA CARNEIRO SAID THAT, UNDER LATEST VERSION OF PACT, PRESIDENT WOULD SELECT PRIME MINISTER AND ALL MINISTERS AFTER CONSULTATION WITH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. COSTA GOMES WOULD SELECT SOCIALIST PRIME MINISTER TO FORM A GOVERNMENT EVEN IF PS SCORED LESS THAN A PLURALITY. SA CARNEIRO ARGUED THAT COSTA GOMES WOULD EXERCISE HIS "WELL-KNOWN PREFERENCE FOR COMMUNISTS" TO PUSH SOCIALISTS INTO ALLIANCE WITH COMMUNISTS, EITHER IMMEDIATELY AFTER LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS OR AT TIME OF SOME LATER GOVERNMENTAL OR LABOR CRISIS. SA CARNEIRO SAID HE HAD ALREADY URGED PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO (THE PPD'S PREFERENCE FOR PRESIDENT) TO OPPOSE ANY DELAY IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. PPD HAS NOW RETURNED TO ITS ORIGINAL POSITION OF FAVORING SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND ASSEMBLY. ACCORDING SA CARNEIRO, PS WANTS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ONLY TOWARD END OF 1976.

-- PS-PPD RELATIONS: SA CARNEIRO CONTRASTED STATEMENTS BY SOARES AND SALGADO ZENHA THAT PS WOULD NOT ALLY ITSELF WITH ANY PARTY AFTER LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, WITH RECENT PPD CONILITARY GESTURES TOWARD SOCIALISM SA CARNEIRO REITERATED THAT PPD WOULD CHOOSE SOCIALISTS FOR COALITION PARTNER IN THE EVENT OF A PPD PLURALITY IN ELECTIONS.

2. CDS VIEWS: AT BREAKFAST MEETING FEB 10, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER LEADERS AMARO DE COSTA AND GALVAO DE MELO PRESENTED A MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW, WHILE SNIPING AWAY AT PPD.

-- PACT NEGOTIATIONS: CDS EXPECTS REVISED PACT TO BE SIGNED FEB 10 OR 11. CDS IS DELIGHTED WITH RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE REVISED PACT WILL CONTAIN SUFFICIENT SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT ABUSE OF PRESIDENTIAL POWERS. THE PRESIDENT WILL, FOR EXAMPLE, BE REQUIRED TO SELECT THE PRIME MINISTER FROM MAJORITY PARTY OR COALITION.

-- ELECTION TIMETABLE: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SHOULD TAKE PLACE SIX MONTHS AFTER LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

-- CDS RALLY: THE FEB 8 KICKOFF RALLY IN LISBON'S BULL RING
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WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS. THE CDS IS CONFIDENT OF ITS PROSPECTS IN THE COMING ELECTIONS.

-- PPD: THE RECENT SPLIT WITHIN THE PPD WAS FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN PPD SPOKESMEN HAVE ADMITTED. INTERNAL DISSENSION WILL HURT THE PPD IN THE COMING ELECTIONS. THE PPD REMAINS INDECISIVE; THE SOCIALISTS ARE EASIER TO WORK WITH.

3. COMMENT: THE REMARKS OF THE LEADERS OF THE TWO MAJOR POLITICAL RIVALS ON THE CENTER-RIGHT PRESENT AN INTERESTING CONTRAST. THE PPD, ALTHOUGH CONCERNED ABOUT THE GROWING STRENGTH OF THE CDS, STILL VIEWS THE PS AS ITS MAJOR COMPETITOR. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME SA CARNEIRO HAS RAISED POSSIBILITY OF A PS DEAL WITH COSTA GOMES (REFTEL). THE CDS, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEES THE PPD AS ITS PINCIPAL POLITICAL ADVERSARY, AND SELDOM MISSES AN OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE ITS RIVAL.
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